



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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February 23, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today in favor of Senate Bill 681, *An Act Concerning Background Checks For Home Health Agency Employees*.

This legislation would require that fingerprinting be included as part of the background checks on employees of home health agencies.

Just in the past few months I have read numinous articles involving home health aides being caught stealing from the people they are entrusted in taking care of. They are stealing cash, personal checks, and jewelry to name some of the items.

Family members hire home health care aides to ensure their loved ones are being properly cared for when they are not available to do so, or for added support. Having a home health care aide should provide peace of mind for the family members. What seems to be happening more and more, however, are home health care aides are taking advantage of the family and patient they should be providing care for.

Requiring fingerprints as part of the background check for employees of home health agencies will help ensure that the people we entrust our family members safety and health to will not take advantage of them. One has to wonder when reading an article about a home health aide being caught stealing how many other victims there may have been.

We have a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being to all of the citizens of Connecticut, especially to our most vulnerable, the sick or elderly. This legislation would help assure this.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator – 24th District